

In-Text Citations in MLA Style

In the body of the paper, any sentence containing information, ideas, or words from another source must be clearly referenced. This is done using in-text citations, which can take three basic forms:

1. Words or phrases of attribution in the sentence itself

In the first paragraph of her article, Brenner asserts that this is true.

Not until his last paragraph does Chandler bother to mention the interference.

2. Parenthetical references

The opposite is found to be true (Brenner 53).

“The notion itself was fundamentally misguided” (Chandler 77).

This “crisis of personal integrity” (Griffin 19) was an old phenomenon.

3. Combined words/phrases of attribution and parenthetical references

Brenner (55) concludes that new studies should focus on deficiency variables..

Travis maintains that these rules are “obviously warranted” (1).

In-text citations in MLA format include the author’s last name and the page number. If the information is provided in the text of the sentence, it does not need to be repeated in a parenthetical reference. The author’s name and the page number are not separated by comma unless there is more than one work by the same author, in which case a shortened version of the title is included after the author’s last name, preceded by a comma, e.g., (LeBon, Futures 117). If no author’s name is available, a shortened version of the title is used in its place. Titles of books are underlined or italicized. Titles of articles are placed inside quotation marks.

Parenthetical references are placed as close as possible to the information being attributed. When placed at the end of the sentence, the parenthetical reference appears before the end mark.

In MLA style, words and phrases of attribution generally appear in present tense (e.g., “Powell claims” or “Jung frequently asserts”).

Reference Lists (Bibliographic Citations) in MLA Style

The reference list provides all of the information needed to look up a referenced source and gives the reader the information needed to make sense of the in-text references. MLA provides guidelines for formatting bibliographic citations from books, periodicals, electronic sources, broadcasts, interviews, etc. Some examples are provided below. For more comprehensive instructions, see the current *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* or any up-to-date writer's handbook containing MLA guidelines (available in the ARC, the PSC Library, or the Bobcat Bookstore).

In MLA style, references are arranged alphabetically by the authors' last names. First names are spelled out and middle initials are supplied when available. (In cases where there is no author, an authoring organization or the title of an article may be listed in its place.) Hanging indentation is used for references that extend beyond one line (the first line aligned left and all subsequent lines indented). For titles and subtitles, all major words are capitalized. Titles of books and periodicals are either underlined or italicized. Titles of articles are placed inside quotation marks.

Basic Format for Books:

Author. Title. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date.

Examples:

Grand, Lenora. Hope for Hope's Sake. Chicago: Unreal Publishing, 1996.

Nolan, Ian G. and Long, John B. None of the Children Came Home: The Aftermath. Little Village, AL: Lesser Known Press, 1975.

Basic Format for Journals/Periodicals:

Author. "Article title." Journal Name Volume (Date): Pages.

Examples:

Henderson, Kyle A. "Why We Should Care." Journal of the People 92.3 (2000): 12.

Jones, Brenda J. *et al.* "Where There's a Will." Aging America 53 (2004): 67-69.

Basic Format for Online Sources:

Author. "Article name." Print Source. Date. Electronic Publication/Organization.
Retrieval Date <URL>.

Examples:

Windle, Marilyn M. "Roots of Destruction." 2005. Promoters of Responsible
Consumerism. 16 Dec. 2005
<<http://www.prc.org/articles/windle/roots.html>>.

"What Happiness Means to Me." 12 June 2005
<<http://www.myblog.com/happiness>>.
(No author and no date available in this example)

Zeigler, Jeremy. "Up In Arms." American Journal of Heroism. 2002. Association
of Citizens for National Defense. 7 Feb. 2005
<<http://www.acnd.com/ajh070205>>.